

## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

### **Student Financial Assistance Commission Office of Student Financial Assistance**

Scholarship/Grant Programs—Rockefeller  
State Wildlife Scholarship  
(LAC 28:IV.Chapter 11)

The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC) is exercising the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act [R.S. 49:953(B)] to amend and re-promulgate the rules of the Scholarship/Grant programs [R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 3041.10-3041.15, and R.S. 17:3042.1.1-3042.8, R.S. 17:3048.1, R.S. 56:797.D(2)].

This rulemaking modifies the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program beginning with awards made for the 2010-2011 academic year by changing the program from a loan forgiveness program to a scholarship program, increasing the award amounts, and changing the eligibility requirements for receipt of the scholarship.

An Emergency Rule is necessary to implement changes to the scholarship/grant programs to allow the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance and state educational institutions to effectively administer these programs. A delay in promulgating rules would have an adverse impact on the financial welfare of the eligible students and the financial condition of their families. LASFAC has determined that the Emergency Rule is necessary in order to prevent imminent financial peril to the welfare of the affected students.

This Declaration of Emergency is effective May 4, 2010, and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act. (SG10115E)

#### **Title 28**

#### **EDUCATION**

#### **Part IV. Student Financial Assistance—Higher Education Scholarship and Grant Programs**

#### **Chapter 11. Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship**

#### **§1101. General Provisions**

A. - A.3. ...

B. Description, History and Purpose

1. The Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program was established in 1980 and is funded with dedicated monies. Through the 2009-2010 academic year, the program provided competitively awarded funds of \$1,000 per academic year to both undergraduate and graduate students majoring in forestry, wildlife, or marine science as it pertains to wildlife, with a requirement that the awardee repay the funds if the student did not earn a degree in one of these fields. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year, the program offers competitively awarded scholarships of \$2,000 per academic year for undergraduate students and \$3,000 per academic year for graduate students.

2. a. Through the 2009-2010 academic year, students accepting the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship agreed:

i. to attain a degree in one of the required fields at a Louisiana public college or university offering such degrees; and

ii. if the student failed or fails to successfully complete an eligible course of study, to repay the funds with interest as per the agreement made between LASFAC and the student.

b. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year, the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship program is a pure

scholarship for undergraduate students who have earned at least 60 credit hours and graduate students.

c. Students who received the award during the 2009-2010 academic year who have not yet earned 60 hours of academic credit may receive the award as a scholarship beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year if the requirements to maintain eligibility have been met.

#### **C. Award Amounts**

1. Through the 2009-2010 academic year:

a. the annual award is \$1,000;

b. the cumulative maximum award is \$7,000 for up to five years of undergraduate and two years of graduate study.

2. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter:

a. the annual award is \$2,000 for undergraduate students;

b. the annual award is \$3,000 for graduate students;

c. the cumulative maximum award is \$12,000 for up to three years of undergraduate and two years of graduate study.

#### **D. Award Disbursements**

1. Through the 2009-2010 academic year, the award is disbursed:

a. at postsecondary institutions using semesters at the rate of \$500 each fall and spring semester; or

b. at postsecondary institutions using terms at the rate of \$333 for the fall and winter term and of \$334 for the spring term.

2. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter, the award is disbursed:

a. at postsecondary institutions using semesters at the rate of:

i. \$1,000 each fall and spring semester for undergraduate students; and

ii. \$1,500 each fall and spring semester for graduate students; or

b. at postsecondary institutions using terms at the rate of:

i. \$667 for each fall and winter and of \$666 for the spring term for undergraduates; and

ii. \$1,000 for each fall, winter term and spring term for graduates.

3. In the event there are unawarded appropriated funds at the end of the spring semester or term, such funds may be disbursed pro-rata to students who received an award during the preceding academic year and are enrolled full-time during the summer.

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:3048.1.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:639 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1908 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1859 (November 2001), amended LR 34:235 (February 2008), LR 36:

#### **§1103. Establishing Eligibility**

A. - A.4.b. ...

5. a. beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year:

i through the 2009-2010 academic year, to be eligible for the award for both fall and spring semesters of the academic year (college), complete and submit the Rockefeller Wildlife Scholarship Application and a master promissory note so that they are received by LOSFA no later than July 1 preceding the fall semester for which the award is sought; or

ii. to be eligible for the award, if funds are available for the spring semester of the academic year (college), complete and submit the Rockefeller Wildlife Scholarship Application and a master promissory note so that they are received by LOSFA no later than December 1 immediately preceding the spring semester for which the award is sought; and

b. beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year:

i. to be eligible for the scholarship for both fall and spring semesters of the academic year (college), complete and submit the Rockefeller Wildlife Scholarship Application so that it is received by LOSFA no later than July 1 preceding the fall semester for which the scholarship is sought; or

ii. to be eligible for the scholarship, if funds are available for the spring semester of the academic year (college), complete and submit the Rockefeller Wildlife Scholarship Application so that it is received by LOSFA no later than December 1 immediately preceding the spring semester for which the scholarship is sought; and

6. agree that award proceeds will be used exclusively for educational expenses; and

7. a. through the 2009-2010 academic year, be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student at a Louisiana public college or university majoring in forestry, wildlife or marine science as it pertains to wildlife, with the intent of obtaining a degree from a Louisiana public college or university offering a degree in one of the three specified fields; or

b. for the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter, be an undergraduate recipient of the award during the 2009-2010 academic year and enrolled full-time or an undergraduate with at least 60 earned hours of college credit and enrolled full-time or graduate student and enrolled full-time at a Louisiana public college or university majoring in forestry, wildlife or marine science as it pertains to wildlife, with the intent of obtaining a degree from a Louisiana public college or university offering a degree in one of the three specified fields; and

8. a. through the 2009-2010 academic year, must have graduated from high school, and if at the time of application the student applicant has earned less than 24 hours of graded college credit since graduating from high school, have earned a minimum cumulative high school grade point average of at least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale for all courses completed in grades 9 through 12, have taken the ACT or SAT and received test score results and, beginning with the 2006-2007 academic year (college), have an ACT Score of at least 20; or

b. beginning with the 2006-2007 academic year (college) and through the 2009-2010 academic year, must be a qualified home study completer and, if at the time of application the student applicant has earned less than 24 hours of graded college credit since graduating from high school, achieve an ACT Score of at least 22; or

c.i. through the 2009-2010 academic year, if, at the time of application, the student applicant has earned 24 or more hours of college credit, then the applicant must have at least a 2.50 cumulative college grade point average; or

ii. beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year, the student applicant has earned 60 or more hours of college credit with at least a 2.50 cumulative college grade point average; or

d. if, at the time of application, the student is in graduate school, then the applicant must have at least a 3.00 cumulative grade point average on all credits earned in graduate school.

9. Through the 2009-2010 academic year, to be a qualified home study completer for the purposes of this Section, the applicant must:

a. successfully complete at the twelfth grade level a home study program approved by BESE; or

b. if a Louisiana public high school, a Louisiana nonpublic high school, an approved non-Louisiana high school, or an out-of-state high school was previously attended, has provided LASFAC with certification by the previously attended high school that said student was in good standing at the time the student last attended such school.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:3048.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:639 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1908 (October 1998), LR 27:1220 (August 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1859 (November 2001), amended LR 28:774 (April 2002), LR 29:125 (February 2003), LR 30:2020 (September 2004), LR 33:87 (January 2007), LR 34:235 (February 2008), LR 36:

#### **§1107. Maintaining Eligibility**

A. To continue receiving the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship, recipients must meet all of the following criteria:

1. a. for recipients first accepting the award through the 2009-2010 academic year, have received the scholarship for not more than seven academic years (five undergraduate and two graduate); or

b. for recipients first accepting the award for the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter, have received the scholarship for not more than five academic years (three undergraduate and two graduate); and

2. - 5. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:3048.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:640 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1909 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1859 (November 2001), amended LR 31:2215 (September 2005), LR 34:235 (February 2008), LR 36:

#### **§1109. Acceptance of Award**

A.1. For recipients first accepting the award through the 2009-2010 academic year, prior to receiving an award, the recipient must agree to the terms and conditions contained in the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program Promissory Note (LASFAC-Form RS02), by completing the form and returning it to LASFAC by the specified deadline. The promissory note obligates the recipient to obtain a Wildlife, Forestry or Marine Science degree or repay the scholarship funds received, plus accrued interest and any collection costs incurred;

2. For recipients accepting the award for the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter, prior to receiving an award, the recipient must agree to the terms and conditions contained in the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program Application, by completing the form and returning it to LASFAC by the specified deadline. The scholarship obligates the recipient to seek a Wildlife, Forestry or Marine Science degree or lose eligibility for future awards.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:640 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1909 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1860 (November 2001), LR 36:

**§1111. Discharge of Obligation for Recipients First  
Accepting an Award through the 2009-2010  
Academic Year**

A. The loan obligation for awards received through the 2009-2010 academic year may be discharged by graduation in an eligible major, monetary repayment or cancellation.

B. - D.2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:640 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1909 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1860 (November 2001), amended LR 28:775 (April 2002), LR 30:780 (April 2004), LR 30:1168 (June 2004), LR 36:

George Badge Eldredge  
General Counsel

1005#046